

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03643 272046Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

AID-05 /078 W

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R 271925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6779

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS LA PAZ 3643

LIMA FOR FULLMER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, XR, BL

SUBJ: LA PLATA BASIN INTEGRATION MEETING OPENS

1. SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF LA PLATA BASIN (CUENCA DEL PLATA) OPENED IN CENTRAL BOLIVIAN CITY OF COCHABAMBA MAY 26. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY AND ARGENTINE JUSTICE MINISTER ANTONIO BENITEZ PRESENT FOR INAUGURAL SESSION ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT BANZER. PRESS RECORDED WITHIN QUOTATION MARKS THAT ARGENTINA FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES COULD NOT ATTEND FOR "REASONS OF HEALTH."

2. PRESIDENT BANZER'S SPEECH DWELT ON HIS FREQUENT THEME THAT BOLIVIA IS "COUNTRY OF CONTACTS". INITIAL SPEECHES AND COMMENTS OF VISITING DELEGATIONS AND LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT, ALL HAVE PLAYED SIMILAR IDEA THAT CUENCA INTEGRATION MOVEMENT NOT MAKING SUFFICIENT NOR EVEN VISIBLE PROGRESS.

3. MAJOR SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO BOLIVIA WAS RESOLVED ON FIRST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03643 272046Z

DAY. IN HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER

SAPENA PASTOR GRACIOUSLY AND SURPRISINGLY CONCEDED THAT BOLIVIA SHOULD BE SITE OF CUENCA'S PROJECT FUND.

SINCE PRIOR TO MEETING PARAGUAY WAS ONLY OTHER CANDIDATE FOR HEADQUARTERS SITING OF FUND OFFICE IN BOLIVIA (PROBABLY EITHER IN SANTA CRUZ OR TARIJA) WILL CERTAINLY BE APPROVED FORMALLY. FUND WILL BE USED TO FINANCE FEASIBILITY AND DESIGN STUDIES FOR PROJECTS WITHIN BASIN AND WILL BE SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS OF US\$ 6,670,000 EACH OVER NEXT THREE YEARS BY ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL AND US\$ 2,220,000 EACH OVER TEN YEARS BY BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, AND URUGAY.

4. EMBASSY WILL SEND SPOT REPORTS ON MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS UNTIL CLOSE OF MEETING MAY 29. ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW WHEN WE HAVE CHANCE TO DISCUSS RESULTS WITH PARTICIPANTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO LA PAZ.

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## Message Attributes

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